

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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USIA-06 /059 W

----- 053380

P R 090855Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8247

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0429

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DM, US

SUBJ: FUTURE OF US-BENIN RELATIONS: QUESTION OF ASSURANCES

REF (A) STATE 55153, (B) COTONOU 401, (C) COTONOU 304,

1. AIDE-MEMOIRE SUGGESTED REF A DELIVERED BY CHARGE TO FORNMIN DIRGEN ADJIN ON AFTERNOON MARCH 8. POINTS CONTAINED IN AIDE-MEMOIRE ALSO COVERED IN ORAL PRESENTATION. ADJIN ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIVING REPORT FROM BENINESE AMB BOYA ON PROTEST MADE BY DEPSEC INGERSOLL, BUT HE ACTED AS IF UNAWARE THAT USG AWAITING FORMAL REPLY TO PROTEST. HIS ATTITUDE, WHICH PROBABLY REFLECTS GPRB THINKING, WAS THAT THE USG MADE ITS PROTEST AND THE MATTER COULD NOW BE LAID TO REST.

2. ADJIN APPEARED SOMEWHAT SURPRISED BY THE IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHING TO REQUEST FOR ASSURANCES ON FUTURE TREATMENT OF US REPS. THIS POINT WAS MADE FORECEFULLY TO HIM IN ORAL PRESENTATION AND BELIEVE HE NOW UNDERSTANDS THAT IT IS A KEY ELEMENT IN OUR FUTURE RELATIONS. ADJIN REITERATED HIS MINISTER'S CONTENTION THAT THERE WAS NO MISTREATMENT OF THE AMBASSADOR AND ADDED THAT PERHAPS AMB MISINTERPRETED THE SESSION BECAUSE HE WAS DEALING IN A LANGUAGE NOT HIS OWN. CHARGE REPLIED THOUGH THERE ARE TWO VERSIONS OF THE SESSION, IT IS USG POS-
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ITION THAT THE REQUESTED ASSURANCES RE THE FUTURE ARE IMPORT-

ANT TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. ALSO STRESSED OUR HOPE THAT THESE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING SHORTLY.

3. ADJIN SAID HE WOULD BRING OUR AIDE-MEMOIRE TO HIS MINISTER'S ATTENTION AND THAT THE LATTER WOULD HAVE TO TAKE IT UP WITH THE GOVT (PRESUMABLY MEANING THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OR MORE LIKELY THE POLITICAL BUREAU).

4. COMMENT: IF AMB BOYA DID FAITHFULLY TRANSMIT TO THE GPRB THE REQUEST FOR ASSURANCES, PERHAPS BY IGNORING IT FOR A MONTH THE GPRB HOPED THE PROBLEM WOULD DISAPPEAR. IN REF B WE ALREADY MADE OUR VIEWS KNOWN TO THE DEPT, NAMELY THAT THE GPRB WILL NOT ADMIT TO HAVING MISTREATED THE AMB. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE REQUESTED ASSURANCES WILL BE FORTHCOMING. AS WE SEE IT, THE ONLY POSSIBLE EVENTUALITY WOULD BE FOR THE GPRB TO COME UP WITH A FORMULATION WHICH WOULD IGNORE THE QUESTION OF THEIR PAST TREATMENT OF AMB ENGLE AND ASSURE US IN GENERAL TERMS THAT THE US DIPLOMATS WILL BE TREATED IN CONFORMITY WITH THE NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE. CHESHES

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